

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 09139 090907Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 9139

FOR NEA/PAB ONLY COON FROM CONSTABLE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGSC PORG, PK
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH SHAHI

REF: STATE 214612

1. THE LEADER OF THE PK UN DELEGATION OFTEN ENTERS HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY WITH A LONG LIST OF ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION. WE THINK THE LIST MAY BE SOMEWHAT SHORTER THIS YEAR FOR TWO REASONS. SHAHI KNOWS THE REPROCESSING PLANT IS THE MAIN IMPEDIMENT TO IMPROVED RELATIONS, AND HE MAY REALIZE THAT PUSHING THE GOP POSITION WITH US IS OF LIMITED UTILITY. ALSO, THE GOP DOES HAVE LIMITED FLEXIBILITY IN POLICY MATTERS DUE TO THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IT WILL NOT MAKE ANY MAJOR POLITICAL DECISIONS. WE CAN EXPECT SHAHI TO RAISE SEVERAL ITEMS, HOWEVER, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

2. VISITS: SHAHI MOST PROBABLY REITERATE THE GOP INVITATION FOR THE SECRETARY TO VISIT PAKISTAN THE SAME TIME AS HIS INDIA TRIP. HE MAY ALSO REPEAT THE GOP'S INTEREST IN A VISIT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT IF HE ALSO COMES TO SOUTH ASIA. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SECRETARY ACCEPT HIS INVITATION IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT FINAL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE WORKED OUT
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WITH THE NEW CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT.

3. ECONOMIC ISSUES: SHAHI MAY PUSH THE GOP REQUEST FOR 300,000 TONS OF CC WHEAT AND 300,000 TONS OF PL 480 WHEAT. WE WILL BE SENDING THE MISSIONS ASSESSMENT ON THESE REQUESTS NEXT WEEK.
SHAHI MAY ALSO EXPRESS INTEREST IN THE STATUS OF OUR AID PROGRAM

WE CAN EXPECT HIM TO MAKE HIS DISPLEASURE KNOWN IF WE HAVE NOT MADE ANY PROGRESS BY THEN, HOWEVER.

4. POLITICAL ISSUES: SHAHI MAY RAISE SEVERAL MULTI-LATERAL ISSUES WHICH THE PAKS WILL PUSH IN THE UNGA. THE WELLS/PETREE TALKS GAVE US SOME INDICATIONS WHAT THE ISSUES MAY BE. SHAHI MAY ASK OUR SUPPORT FOR A REVIVED PAK RESOLUTION ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES GUARANTEES TO NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES. HE MAY ALSO PUSH THE HARDY PERENNIAL--THE SOUTH ASIAN NUCLEAR FREE ZONE. IF THE CONVERSATION TURNS TO POLITICS AND USG POLICY IN SOUTH ASIA, WE ASSUME SHAHI WILL MENTION GOP CONCERNS ABOUT RECENT USG STATEMENTS (READ THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S) WHICH ARE INTERPRETED HERE AS USG SUPPORT FOR INDIAN HEGEMONY IN THE AREA. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IF THE SECRETARY NOTED OUR SUPPORT FOR THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT'S POLICY FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS. WE ARE THINKING SPECIFICALLY OF ZIA'S SEVERAL POSITIVE COMMENTS ON INDO/PAK RELATIONS.

5. MILITARY SALES: WE DO NOT THINK SHAHI WILL TAKE THE INITIATIVE ON MILITARY SALES. THERE ARE NO MAJOR OUTSTANDING REQUESTS, AND SAHI REALIZES THAT MILITARY SALES AS WELL ARE INTERTWINED WITH THE REPROCESSING QUESTION.
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6. ON OUR SIDE, IN ADDITION TO WHATEVER TOPICS THE DEPARTMENT MAY SUGGEST, THERE ARE TWO ITEMS WHICH IF RAISED BY THE SECRETARY WOULD SUPPORT OUR GENERAL INTERESTS. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REAFFIRM OUR INTERESTS IN RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN PAKISTAN THROUGH THE SCHEDULED OCTOBER ELECTIONS. WE SHOULD NOT BE PREACHY ON THIS ISSUE, AND WE DO NOT RECOMMEND IT BE A CENTRAL DISCUSSION TOPIC. WE DO THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR THE SECRETARY TO GO ON THE RECORD WITH SHAHI WITH A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE USG IS PLEASED TO SEE THAT ZIA IS PROCEEDING WITH HIS STATED INTENTION OF HOLDING ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER AND WILL TURN POWER OVER TO A SUCCESSOR CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT.

7. AS YOU HAVE SEEN FROM OUR REPORTING, PAKISTAN IS MAKING SUBSTANTIAL STRIDES IN HUMAN RIGHTS. WE THINK SUCH A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. THIS VIEW IS STRENGTHENED BY THE CENTRAL ROLE HUMAN RIGHTS NOW PLAYS IN OUR OWN FOREIGN POLICY. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY NOTE THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES, GREATER PRESS FREEDOM, AND GENERAL

HIGHER REGARD FOR PERSONAL FREEDOMS AND LIBERTIES UNDER
THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. HE COULD EXPRESS OUR PLEASURE
AT THESE STEPS AND OUR HOPE THEY WILL CONTINUE UNDER
THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

8. THE AMBASSADOR IS OUT OF TOWN FOR A FEW DAYS LEAVE.
I BELIEVE THESE RECOMMENDATIONS REFLECT HIS OWN VIEWS
HOWEVER. IF HE HAS ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS, WE WILL PASS
THEM TO YOU ON SEPTEMBER 13.
HUMMEL

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